

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3563
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKERS
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of immigrants are working in the informal and domestic help as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries they are serving in during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government are aware of illegal human trafficking in such immigrants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b) : All intending emigrants whose passports have the endorsement of 'Emigration Check Required', are required, under the Emigration Act, 1983, to obtain emigration clearance from the Offices of Protectors of Emigrants before they leave for employment with any foreign employer. During the last 3 years, 416424, 355164 and 199552 workers, mostly of semi-skilled and unskilled categories left for other countries for work after obtaining such emigration clearance during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto 30.9.99) respectively. The important countries to which these workers emigrated for work are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia and Libya. No record in respect of such persons whose passports carry the endorsement of 'Emigration Check Not Required' and who emigrate to other countries for work, is maintained.

(c) to (e) : Sporadic complaints relating to cheating of job seekers by registered and unregistered recruiting agents are brought to the notice of the Government. The complaints mainly relate to collection of money in excess of the service charges prescribed by the Government, sending of workers to other countries against non existent jobs, non-payment/delayed payment of salaries, non-availability of accommodation and other facilities and changing of the work agreement to the disadvantage of the workers. In the case of workers deployed by the registered recruiting agents, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned Indian Mission abroad and the grievances of the workers are redressed in the majority of the cases. Simultaneously, the registered recruiting agents are also directed to get in touch with the foreign sponsor and redress the grievances of the workers. While in majority of the cases such grievances are redressed, in the event of the registered recruiting agents not cooperating in the matter, action is taken to suspend/cancel the registration certificates. During the last three years, registration certificates of 32 agents were suspended and two registration certificates were cancelled. In the event of the complaint being against the unregistered recruiting agents, the matter is immediately brought to the notice of concerned police authorities for investigation and taking appropriate legal action against them. With a view to curbing the activities of such unregistered recruiting agents, detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments/UTs for issue of necessary instructions right up to the police station level for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agents and registering cases against them. On the basis of the action taken by the police authorities, cases have been registered against many such unregistered recruiting agents in various states.